

Febvre *et al.*

Appl. No. *To Be Assigned* (Divisional of  
Appl. No. 09/440,468; Filed: November 15, 1999)

### ***Remarks***

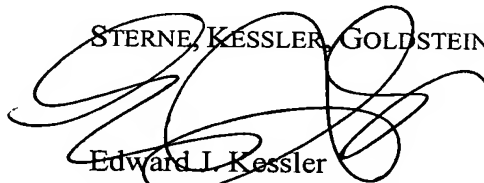
Upon entry of the foregoing amendment, claims 13-15, 18-20, 26, and 27 are pending in the application, with 13, 19, 20, and 26 being the independent claims. Claims 1-12, 16, 17, and 21-25 are sought to be cancelled without prejudice to or disclaimer of the subject matter therein. Claims 26 and 27 are sought to be added. Claims 15 and 18 are sought to be amended. These changes are believed to introduce no new matter, and their entry is respectfully requested.

### ***Conclusion***

Prompt and favorable consideration of this Preliminary Amendment is respectfully requested. Applicants believe the present application is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at the number provided.

Respectfully submitted,

STERNE, KESSLER, GOLDSTEIN & FOX P.L.L.C.

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'E. Kessler', is written over the printed name and title.

Edward I. Kessler  
Attorney for Applicants  
Registration No. 25,688

Date: March 12, 2004

1100 New York Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20005-3934  
(202) 371-2600